

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-21 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu (US 5,498,211). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

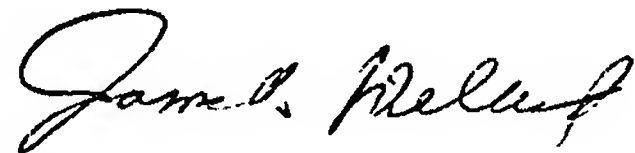
Hsu discloses a derailleur base member (305), a spring (304), a stop ring (303), and a snap ring (302). The right end of spring (304) is mounted in an opening (305a) in base member (305), and the left end of spring (304) is inserted into an opening (303a) in stop ring (303). As the office action properly notes, spring (304) biases base member (305) clockwise, resulting in a counterclockwise bias to stop ring (303) until a flange (303b) on stop ring (303) abuts against the bottom surface of a stop member (305b) on base member (305). A screw (301a) screws into a threaded opening (302c) in a plate (302b) of snap ring (302) and abuts against a positioning plate (303c) of stop ring (303), and a screw (301b) screws into a threaded opening (302d) of plate (302b) and abuts against a baffle angle (300b) of frame (300). Consequently, positioning plate (303c) of stop ring (303), plate (302b) of snap ring (302), and baffle angle (300b) of frame (300) are maintained at a fixed angle. However, because flange (303b) on stop ring (303) abuts against the bottom surface of stop member (305b) on base member (305), elements (303, 302, 305b), which the office action interprets to be a rotation restriction mechanism, only restrict *clockwise* rotation of base member (305), whereas claim 1 recites a rotation restricting mechanism that restricts *counterclockwise* rotation of the base member.

Claims 8, 12, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu in view of Ichida (US 5,931, 753). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 1-26 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-38 of copending application no. 10/605,832. It is assumed that copending application no. 10/605,381 was intended. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed. There is no suggestion to eliminate the lateral support recited in those claims and to add a rotation restricting mechanism as recited in the present claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103 and obviousness-type double patenting have been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430